



TOWN OF GRAFTON

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
Grafton Memorial Municipal Center
30 Providence Road
Grafton, MASSACHUSETTS
01519

Article 37 - Fisherville Mill River Walk Feasibility Study

Project Description: The Fisherville Mill River Walk Feasibility Study will examine the concept for a pedestrian and bicycle friendly path along the perimeter of the site of the former Fisherville Mill as envisioned by the final report entitled “Creating a Teaching Landscape” completed in the spring of 2015. Funding from the Blackstone River Valley Heritage Corridor was obtained for the development of a master plan for the Fisherville Mill and the development of educational material promoting the area’s historic and environmental resources. The River Walk was one of these elements.

As shown in the Fisherville Mill Landscape Concept Plan, the River Walk runs adjacent to the River and Fisherville Pond connecting northern portions of the site with Main Street and Mill Villages Park while providing amenities and scenic views of the river, the step dam and the mill pond.



Fisherville Mill Landscape Concept Plan

The River Walk will also allow for the future connection of the site to the Blackstone Bikeway, whether it be an off road route across the former tow paths of the canal or an on-road route along Main Street.

While the property is currently privately owned, it is expected that the Town will obtain an easement for the River Walk to allow this to be Town facility similar to the Mill Villages Park.

Project Funding Request: It is expected that the Feasibility Study will cost \$12,500. The Planning Department has received two proposals for approximately \$10,000. The request of an additional \$2,500 is intended to cover additional costs for public outreach, materials, and additional tasks that may arise as part of the project.

Conclusion: The Fisherville River Walk Feasibility Study will continue with the Town’s efforts to encourage economic development efforts in South Grafton and provide open space and recreational access to residents and visitors. The feasibility study will also enable Town Departments, Boards and Commissions with guidance as efforts to develop the Fisherville Mill site continue, ensuring public space and facilities will be an integral part of any development project. The River Walk will also serve as a facility to link the industrial history of South Grafton and the Blackstone Valley with environmental and natural resources of the area.